

Mississippi Public Health Laboratory SARS-CoV-2 (virus that causes COVID-19) Test Information

Test Method: CDC 2019-nCoV (SARS-CoV-2) real-time RT-PCR Diagnostic Panel.

Required Specimen Submission Forms: The submitter must complete a MSDH Form 1198, SARS-CoV-2 (Virus that causes COVID-19) Testing Requisition with each specimen set (one form per patient). Incomplete or illegible forms will result in reporting delays.

Test Performance and Turn-Around-Time: 2 - 3 days. Testing Turnaround time is defined as the usual number of days from the date of specimen receipt by the MPHL and when the result is released to the identified submitter. In some cases, additional time should be allowed for additional confirmatory or additional reflex tests. Testing schedules may vary.

Result Interpretation:

Reported Result	Action
Presumptive positive	Specimen is referred to the CDC for additional testing. Confirmatory testing at the CDC is required.
Not Detected	Testing for SARS-CoV-2 is complete. Additional testing may be considered in consultation with the MSDH Office of Epidemiology.
Inconclusive	Specimen is referred to the CDC for additional testing. The absence or presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA could not be determined with certainty after repeat testing of the specimen in the laboratory. Additional testing is required
Invalid	The absence or presence of SARS-CoV-2 RNA could not be determined with certainty after repeat testing of the specimen in the laboratory due to PCR inhibition. Consultation with the MSDH Office of Epidemiology is required to determine if a new specimen should be collected.

Result Reporting:

The Mississippi Public Health Laboratory (MPHL) provided reports to our clients via the following two processes:

1. Web-based reporting through a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS) web portal application
2. Fax reporting through a pre-approved fax number

New MPHL clients that submit specimens for only one test type (i.e COVID-19) may request fax reporting by completing the “MPHL Fax Reporting Agreement”. Each client may enroll only one fax number per MPHL account.

Established clients who submit specimens for multiple tests (i.e. COVID-19 and Mycobacteriology) may enroll in both fax and web-based reporting. Client may complete form Web Portal User Agreement located at https://www.msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/resources/6994.pdf to obtain access to the web portal and ISA0-13 to obtain fax reporting.

Clients should email the completed form(s) to LIMSadmin@msdh.ms.gov. Clients may also fax the completed form(s) to 601-576-7037. Please do not fax and email forms.

The MPHL will verbally notify the MSDH Office of Epidemiology of all positive, inconclusive and invalid (abnormal) results immediately upon test completion. The MSDH Office of Epidemiology will contact the submitting clinician/client regarding abnormal results. All final MPHL results will be reported electronically by fax or the MPHL web portal within 24 hours of testing completion for all clients with accounts or by mail for clients that have not enrolled in MPHL LIMS web or fax reporting. All results are immediately reported to the CDC upon testing completion using an electronic laboratory report.